Five Days Left to Apply for Preventive Care Insurance
The Primary Care Network open enrollment ends October 29th

(Salt Lake City, UT) – The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) reminds Utahns aged 19 to 64 who do not have health insurance to apply for the Primary Care Network (PCN) by October 29, when open enrollment ends. PCN, the UDOH's main public insurance program for income-eligible adults, helps Utahns take care of their health so they can take care of their families.

Utahns may learn more about PCN or find a nearby eligibility office by calling the UDOH's Health Resource Line at 1-888-222-2542. Until Friday, October 29th, applications will be accepted in person, by mail, or online at www.health.utah.gov/pcn. Applications must be received by October 29th. The UDOH will accept all eligible adults who apply during this open enrollment session.

Trudy, a Utahn who already applied during this open enrollment says, "I heard about open enrollment when the UDOH sent me something in the mail. I applied for PCN the first day of open enrollment because I want to be physically healthy so I can feel good and have fun with my kids."

PCN is cost-effective. Enrolling for one year costs up to $50, and small co-pays are charged for services. For the average cost to an uninsured person for a single prescription, those who enroll on PCN receive about $1,000 worth of health care on average.

"PCN is now two-years old," says Michael Hales, Director, PCN, UDOH. "Data from the Health Outcome Evaluation shows that PCN is improving access to primary health care for Utah adults." After being covered by PCN for one year, survey respondents say they were more likely to get medical care, routine care, dental care, and needed prescription drugs than they were prior to enrolling. PCN helps Utah adults access preventive care, allowing them to treat problems early, before they get worse and treatment costs more.

PCN is unique to Utah. The program began in 2002, and was made possible by a Federal Medicaid 1115 Waiver approved by Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson. More than 10,000 applications have been received so far during this open enrollment. The UDOH encourages you to call the Health Resource line at 1-888-222-2542, and make the last week of open enrollment count!

A radio campaign is airing to let Utahns know they can apply for PCN through October 29th. The UDOH has also reached out to people who may qualify by mail and through community partners, including schools, child care agencies, and advocacy groups.

PCN is a health insurance plan for adults funded jointly by the state and federal governments. PCN provides preventive medical and dental services to adults who are ages 19-64, have no other health insurance, do not have access to health insurance through work, are U.S. or legal residents, and meet income guidelines. Help accessing specialty and inpatient hospital care is offered. Donated care, provided through the generosity of Utah hospitals and physicians, is an essential part of PCN. To receive PCN, you must qualify based on family size and household income. For example, a family of four earning up to $28,275 per year may meet income guidelines. While PCN serves working Utah adults, you do not have to work to qualify. Adults without children as well as parents may apply during this open enrollment.

PCN reached capacity in November, 2003 and applications are now accepted during open enrollment. The dates and length of open enrollment periods are determined by how many adults enroll, the number leaving the program, and available funding. Covered at Work, a program to help Utah adults who qualify pay for their health insurance at work is also accepting applications. For more information about PCN, call the UDOH's Health Resource Line at 1-888-222-2542, or visit www.health.utah.gov/pcn

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